



# SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

## **Government Without Borders: Working Together to Strengthen Each Other** [www.scaleinfo.org](http://www.scaleinfo.org)

Last Friday's SCALE meeting at the SCALE Regional Training Facility (RTF) in Jordan started with RTF Manager **Mike Briese** giving his yearly update, which included statistics about training in law enforcement, fire and rescue, public works, Rasmussen College skills classes, and many others. "The building is well-designed for what we do," Briese said. "Rasmussen is one our biggest users. Four groups of 25 students graduate every year."

Briese outlined the Facility's uses by agency, use hours, and student contact hours, and noted that nearly two tons of lead was fired on the Facility's many ranges via handgun, rifle and shotgun training last year. (The lead is subsequently reclaimed and recycled.)

According to Briese, confined space training is coming online this year, and planned improvements include providing new tactical aspects to the 200 yard range, increasing the size of "Use of Force" mat room, the installation of new Tactical Incident Command software and hardware, the acquisition of new training props, upgrading hard surface training areas, and the installation of live fire prop training simulators.

Following the RTF update, Families and Individuals Sharing Hope (FISH) Executive Director **Beth Loechler** – SCALE's sister organization – presented an overview of FISH and its recent progress, including applying for 501c3 status, establishing fiscal policy, and developing fundraising strategies to position itself for future sustainability. The mission of FISH is to partner to meet human needs so individuals can live healthy, transformed lives. FISH networks through e-mail, meetings, programs, and ministries, and is always looking for "...new and innovative ways to integrate into the faith communities," Loechler said.

During the meeting, SCALE members read real-life need scenarios that highlighted the needs and demonstrated the value of FISH in the community. "The stories behind the needs are very important," said Loechler. "People can help in small ways and make a world of difference." The group has a new website at [www.fishgroup.net](http://www.fishgroup.net). Loechler requested feedback from SCALE on the site and offered an invitation to **FISH's annual meeting on October 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Playworks Link Event Center in Prior Lake.**

Before ending the morning with an optional tour of the Regional Training Facility, members heard from Scott County Administrator **Gary Shelton** about "Code Red," an automated emergency notification system recently purchased by Scott County. He said the user-initiated (i.e., sign-up) system calls out through the internet and offers weather warnings based on GIS

positioning and emergency notifications. “In some respects, it’s a reverse 911 system,” Shelton said. “If you don’t opt-in – you won’t get it. For more information about Code Red, contact Scott County Sheriff’s Captain **Jeff Swedin** at (952) 496-8413 or Emergency Manager Director **Chris Weldon** at (952) 496-8381.

Don’t forget to attend the next SCALE meeting on **Friday, October 12, at 7:30 a.m. at Prior Lake City Hall** when the topics will include school districts’ successes and challenges, and how it all ties into SCALE.

***The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.***